IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 3, 8, 10, 12, 24, 41, 49, and 50 as follows and ADD new claims 51and 52.

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) An image scanning apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said controller moves said movable image sensing unit in a direction opposite to a sub-scanning direction in a particular distance after the relative movement is temporarily stopped.

4-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) An image scanning apparatus comprising:

a movable image sensing unit, ~~that~~ which scans at least one document image arranged on a document plate, while moving in a sub-scanning direction relative to the at least one document image; and

a controller that controls ~~the relative~~ movement of said movable image sensing unit relative to the at least one document image in (i) the sub-scanning direction, and (ii) a direction opposite to the sub-scanning direction, said controller controlling movement of said movable image sensing unit such that when said movable image sensing unit scans plural document images arranged on the document plate ~~are scanned~~, said controller moves said movable image sensing unit a ~~particular~~ predetermined distance in ~~a~~ the

direction opposite to ~~a~~ the sub-scanning direction, after completion of said movable image sensing unit scanning one of the plural document images, and before said movable image sensing unit ~~starting~~ starts scanning of a next one of the plural document images,

wherein said controller moves said movable image sensing unit in the direction opposite to the sub-scanning direction, when a ~~larger~~ predetermined distance is needed between the one document image and the next document ~~images~~ image, in order to accelerate said movable image sensing unit to a scanning speed.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) An image scanning apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the ~~particular~~ predetermined distance is calculated from at least one of a scanning speed, a scanning resolution, a space between documents in a sub-scanning direction, and a minimum distance needed to accelerate said movable image sensing unit to the scanning speed.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An image scanning apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said controller moves said movable image sensing unit to the home position when an operation mode requires that calibration data be acquired each time a document image is scanned.

13. (Original) An image scanning apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the document images are a plurality of frames of images formed on a photographic film.

14-23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) A control program stored on a computer-readable medium for controlling an image scanning apparatus to scan one or more document images arranged on a document plate while moving ~~an~~ a movable image sensing unit in a sub-scanning direction relative to the document images, the control program comprising the step of:

controlling the relative movement of the movable image sensing unit such that the movable image sensing unit is moved a ~~particular~~ predetermined distance in a direction opposite to a sub-scanning direction after completion of scanning a first of the document images arranged on the document plate and before scanning a next of the document images,

wherein the movable image sensing unit is moved ~~relatively backwardly~~ in the direction opposite to the sub-scanning direction, when a ~~larger~~ predetermined distance is needed between the one document image and the next document ~~images~~ image, in order to accelerate the image sensing unit to a scanning speed.

25-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A scanning method comprising the steps of:

scanning a plurality of document images arranged on a document plate while moving ~~an~~ a movable sensing unit in a sub-scanning direction relative to the plurality of document images; and

controlling the relative movement of the movable image sensing unit such that the movable image sensing unit is moved a ~~particular~~ predetermined distance in a direction opposite to ~~a~~ the sub-scanning direction after completion of scanning ~~a~~ the first of the plurality of document images arranged on the document plate and before scanning ~~a~~ the next of the plurality of document images,

wherein the movable image sensing unit is moved ~~relatively backwardly~~ in the direction opposite to the sub-scanning direction, when a ~~larger~~ predetermined distance is needed between the one document image and the next document ~~images~~ image, in order to accelerate the image sensing unit to a scanning speed.

42-48. (Canceled)

49. (Currently Amended) An image scanning apparatus comprising:

a movable image sensing unit that scans at least one document image arranged on a document plate while moving in a sub-scanning direction relative to the at least one document image; and

a controller that controls the relative movement of said movable image sensing unit such that when plural document images arranged on the document plate are scanned, said controller moves said movable image sensing unit to a position after completion of

scanning one of the plural document images and before starting scanning a next of the plural document images, and then start scanning of the next document,

wherein the position is calculated after scanning the one document image and before scanning the next document image in accordance with a coordinate of the leading edge of the next document and a distance needed to accelerate said image sensing unit to a scanning speed of the next document.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ A movable image scanning apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said distance is set when the scanning speed of the next document exceeds a starting range of a motor to drive the relative movement.

51. (New) A controller according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined distance is calculated by subtracting the Y coordinate of the leading edge of the next document from the current Y coordinate of the one document and then adding the distance needed to accelerate the movable image sensing unit to a scanning speed, wherein there is overlapping in the Y direction between the one document image and the next document image.

52. (New) A controller according to claim 8, wherein the predetermined distance is calculated by subtracting the space between one document image and the next document image from the distance needed to accelerate the movable image sensing unit to a scanning speed, wherein there is no overlapping in location in the Y direction between the one document image and the next document image.